

***HYPANARTIA LETHE* FAB., SSP. *DEMONICA* HÜBNER. 1821 (LEP.: NYMPHALIDAE): A SYNONYM DESIGNATED A SUBSPECIES**

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THIS SPECIES has a wide geographical range in Central and South America from Mexico to Argentina, and also Trinidad. I have encountered it commonly, usually at flowers, at Biscucuy, Portuguesa, Venezuela; Foz do Iguaçu, Paraná, Brazil; Puerto Iguazú, Misiones, and San Salvador de Jujuy, Argentina. At Pto. Iguazú it is attracted particularly, together with the closely related *H. bella* Fab. and numerous other species, to a ragwort (*Senecio* sp.) growing five to six feet in height along roadsides. Recently, I noticed a small, but constant difference between specimens from Venezuela and those from Misiones, Argentina, but neither DeVries (1987) nor D'Abbrera (1987) mention subspeciation, nor is it demonstrated in the National Collection of the British Museum (Natural History).

The difference relates to the forewing subapical fascia normally composed of a costal blotch, a similar central blotch either narrowly separated from it, or coalesced with it, and a smaller, well-separated posterior spot; in Venezuelan specimens brown, but in specimens from Pto. Iguazú and Foz do Iguaçu the small posterior spot is white. The National Collection contains a segregated series of specimens based upon wing dimensions from the southeastern part of the species' range, all of which possess the white spot, and from Andean Argentina, which do not. The wings of all these specimens exhibit some elongation anteriorly of the forewing relative to the hind margin, giving the wing a less square and compact appearance; this is quite noticeable in the Andean specimens. It is interesting to note that this trend is also present, but to a much greater degree, in *Anartia amathea* L., another common Nymphalid with a similar geographical range.

Fabricius (1793) named and described this species; Hübner (1821) figured it in colour, naming it *H. demonica* and Hemming (1964) selected one of the specimens figured to represent the lectotype of *H. demonica*. Fabricius' description refers to a black and brown insect, but Hübner's figure clearly portrays the form with the white spot.

I designate the form illustrated by Hübner as subspecies *demonica* Hb. of *Hypanartia lethe* Fabr. (Plate F, Fig. 1). It is characterised by a white posterior spot on the forewing subapical fascia; in addition the forewing is relatively longer anteriorly in relation to the hind margin compared with *H. lethe lethe* (Plate F, Fig. 2). Specimens from Andean Argentina which possess this character, but not the white spot, I exclude; it is a variable character representing a cline in the species.

Known distribution of subspecies *demonica*: Brazil – states of Bahia, Minas Gerais, Espírito Santo, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Paraná;

south-eastern Paraguay; Argentina – Misiones province. This list is based on the comprehensive series of *H. lethe* in the National Collection, and the much larger series in the Rothschild Collection.

In Trinidad and the coast of Venezuela opposite, another variation in the subapical fascia occurs in which the posterior spot tends to be very small, and in one specimen from Trinidad in the Rothschild Collection it is obsolete. The not very good coloured illustration of a Trinidad specimen in Barcant (1970) illustrates this, and the presence of this tendency on the mainland opposite Trinidad suggests that the cause is not from insularity only.

Finally, it is interesting to note that the coloured photograph in D'Abrera (1987) portrays ssp. *demonica*; it is stated to be of a specimen from south Brazil.

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References

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Correction to Microlepidoptera Review of 1994

Having recently read the Pterophoridae section of the Microlepidoptera Review of 1994 (*antea*: 193), I realise that I have made an error. My record of 1494 *Capperia britanniodactyla* (Gregs.) is in fact a misidentification of 1497 *Amblyptilia acanthadacyla* (Hb.). The incorrect record was originally submitted to A.M. Davis for the Pyraloidea Recording Scheme by me. However, when the determination was later corrected by Ken Bond I confess to having forgotten to inform Mr Davis and subsequently the incorrect record was passed on to the authors of the *Review*. The record of *C. britanniodactyla* for Ballaglass should be deleted.— G.D. CRANE, 8 Kissack Road, Castletown, Isle of Man.